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self to life under entirely changed conditions.

There is not time to go into details connected with the organization of libraries at particular hospitals and the line to be drawn between service rendered by the Surgeon General's Office and the American Library Association.

Suggestions for the organization of hospital libraries have been sent out from headquarters which will probably have to be modified to suit particular cases. These take up on general lines the problems that will be met by every hospital librarian. They consider service to the medical and nursing corps, the enlisted men and orderlies, as well as the service to the very sick, the wounded and the convalescent man.

Although the American Library Association is now giving book service to a chain of hospitals reaching from Santo Domingo to Pearl Harbor, H. I., although satisfactory relations have been established with the Red Cross for library work in convalescent houses and they are giving not only the use of a room and shelving for books but in their new houses are providing living quarters for librarians, and although the American Library Association has given the Red Cross 25,000 books for the use of the hospitals in France, nothing more than a start has been made as far as hospital work is concerned.

Little or nothing has been done toward coördinating our work with the occupational and vocational work to be done in the hospitals and little or nothing has been done for the hospitals overseas.

A great reconstruction hospital is being built in Boston which is to be devoted entirely to the re-education of the handicapped. In Canada there are training shops in connection with the convalescent hospitals. It is not unlikely that shops of the same kind will be built here. If this is so librarians with specialized training in all branches of technical library work will be needed.

The 25,000 books sent to the Red Cross will stop the gap over there for a time but when one considers the size and number of the hospitals in England and France for our troops, the gap will not be filled for long. The Red Cross reports fifty Red Cross units that have gone over, each equipped to care for a hospital of from one to two thousand beds. We know of two ten thousand bed hospitals that are being constructed in southern France. We know that the Red Cross is calling for 25,000 nurses between now and the first of January. This means a provision for 250,000 men, for the Red Cross estimates ten men to a nurse. This much we do know and there are doubtless other hospitals about which we know nothing, but with these figures before us it takes no great flight of the imagination to know that as far as hospital service is concerned our big work is before us.

And as the aim of the first part of library war service has been to make better fighters of our men, the aim of this second and equally important phase will be to make better men of our fighters and defenders.

## HOW THE CAMP LIBRARY REACHES EVERY MAN

By JOY E. MORGAN, *Camp Librarian, Camp MacArthur, Waco, Texas*

The public interest would be well served by a wider spreading of the idea that there is a place in public education, large beyond measure, which is not being filled and which cannot be well filled by any agency

other than the free public library. There is unusual opportunity in our army camps for the dissemination of this idea among the thousands of men who come from localities not now served by free libraries.

The mere presence of an attractive building in camp spreads the library idea. Each army unit has its bulletin board which every man in the unit is supposed to read. Upon these bulletin boards the camp librarian may have posted book lists and announcements calling attention to the library. Then there are the motion picture machines, in Y. M. C. A. and K. of C. huts, in the liberty theater and in other buildings about camp. Through these machines slides may be run calling attention to the free book service. The platforms of Y. M. C. A. huts afford opportunity for talks about books and their uses. *Trench and camp*, a weekly newspaper which is published in most camps, is glad to give ample space to accounts of library activities. Finally there is the direct approach to men in their army units. Nearly always the company commander is willing on request to form his company at retreat into an audience which may be addressed by the librarian in a brief account of the library service in camp, on troop trains, on transports and overseas.

These are big opportunities upon which we have merely begun to realize and which cannot be fully realized without increasing the number of assistance in camp libraries. The camp library is a more important institution than we at first realized. It is the heart of a system of libraries. The building is as centrally located as any building can be, but most army camps are not compact and some parts of camp may be several miles from the central library. There is not a convenient and cheap transportation system as in a city. In order to get the books nearer the men branches are established in the huts of the Y. M. C. A. and K. of C. There is at least one such building for every army brigade. Each of them has a room or corner of a room that is devoted to library service. The books for this service are supplied by the American Library Association through the camp library. Collections vary in size from a few hundred volumes to two thousand volumes. The staff of the main library maintains gen-

eral supervision over these branches, but the actual lending of the books is handled by the secretaries of the various buildings. Recreation huts are usually crowded and branch libraries reach a large number of men, but with only one such building for every five thousand men it is obvious that they cannot reach every man in camp. There must be provision for library service for men who do not find it convenient to attend these recreation huts.

Such service may be provided by the regimental library. The establishment of such a library depends primarily upon the regimental chaplain. He may prefer to leave the handling of books to other agencies. He may see in books valuable opportunity for contact with his men. The library of the Thirty-fourth Infantry is a good type of the regimental branch. Chaplain Cohee of that regiment secured an abandoned mess shack for a library and made effective use of a collection of some three thousand books. This same chaplain had taken a thousand books to the Mexican border and reported a circulation in his regiment of 15,000 books in eight months. He says in a letter, "I am sure there was nothing in that camp that was touching the lives of those men so vitally as those thousand books." But not every chaplain appreciates the value of books and is able to get a building for their circulation.

The ideal type of service for reaching every man is the company library or book station. These libraries are located in first sergeants' tents or in mess shacks. In barracks' camps they are located in some corner of the barracks. Camp MacArthur being a tent camp, we felt the need of having collections so made that they could be quickly distributed or taken up. The Waco high schools shops built us two hundred cases to be used in establishing company libraries. These cases of fifty books each can be handled at the rate of twenty or thirty per day, which may be necessary when troops are suddenly ordered to be moved. By means of company libraries books can be placed so near

every man that he can get them without leaving his company street. Through these stations men form the reading habit and learn to avail themselves of the larger opportunities of the branch libraries and of the main library.

Another important work is the branch library in the Red Cross Convalescing House at the base hospital. This work has already been ably discussed and may be passed over now.

The connection between these various branches and stations and the main library is made by means of the library truck or Ford. Its daily trips give life to the work in all parts of camp. Camp roads are never too rough for the Ford to haul its loads of books and magazines. By its use the camp library becomes an aggressive institution that reaches out to touch all phases of camp life.

It is peculiarly necessary that the camp library be aggressive. It is a comparatively new institution. Thousands of men in camp have never before enjoyed free library privileges. They are in strange surroundings. They are new to each other. Some are away from home for the first time. All are ordering their lives anew. Books may have a large place in their new habits. Books have the power to make them better soldiers and better citizens.

Another factor in getting books to every man has been the efficiency of the staff at headquarters. I come from one of the remote camps. Waco is far from Washington. Help has been difficult to get. Camp MacArthur is widely scattered. The heat is intense and enervating. The problem has not been easy, but it has been made much easier by the helpful attitude of headquarters and by the prompt attention they have given to our needs. Things move fast in an army camp. Time is vital, much more vital than in civil life. Quick service is appreciated by the military authorities. I mention these things especially because the hearty coöperation of the military authorities makes the work vastly more effective. They have gladly posted on every bulletin board in camp an-

nouncements calling attention to the library and urging soldiers to avail themselves of its opportunities. Military instructors send members of their classes to the library and feel free to call upon it for help in any emergency.

The camp library satisfies two distinct types of needs. First, it supplies the technical books that every ambitious soldier is eager to get. It is not uncommon for the library to keep in active circulation a hundred copies of a single title on military science. Men study these books because they know it pays. The man who studies gets promoted and the man who loaf stays at the bottom.

The second type of need that the camp library serves is the need for inspiration. The camp library helps men to find themselves. It is tragedy for men to be taken from their homes and kept long under military regimen without understanding the issues of the war and without enthusiasm for the sacrifice they make. Men need to know, they have a right to know, why we are at war, why they must be sent to Europe, why it is necessary to fight this war at terrible cost to avoid consequences to civilization more costly even than war. One man read Van Dyke's book "Fighting for peace" and found at its close the fitting quotation from Tennyson's "Epilogue." He fixed upon these lines:

" . . . He needs must fight

To make true peace his own,  
He needs must combat might with might,  
Or might would rule alone."

He found in those lines the explanation of our part in the war. For him there was reason for all the hardship, for all the struggle, for all the sacrifice.

The camp library is a center from which radiate right ideals. We have been worshipping false gods. Ideals have been subordinated to material things. We have valued too highly some things that we now see are of little worth in themselves. Too often have we thought of life, not as an opportunity for service, but as a span of years to be lived out. But this is a war for ideals and these ideals are pene-

trating into the rank and file of our troops. Ideals release immense stores of hidden energy in men and the inspiration thereof is as necessary for victory as are guns and ammunition.

These are the things for which the camp library stands. It is a live institution; it does things quickly and thoroughly.

Through its branches and stations it reaches out to all the men in camp. By its use surplus time is turned into hope, into happiness and into opportunity. It is serving the cause of democracy and through it we are making a very large and a very definite contribution toward the winning and the ending of this war.

### HOW THE CAMP LIBRARY REACHES EVERY MAN

By FREDERICK GOODELL, *New York Public Library (Camp Librarian, Camp Wheeler, Ga.)*

One of the librarians the other day in speaking of a camp said that camps were composed of all sorts of men. The way to reach all these men in the camps is something we have all been thinking about. Of course, we cannot do it but we do come quite near to doing it sometimes, I think.

Publicity, of course, is a very important thing in reaching them. We have a great many men in the camps who do not know about the library. In the southern camps particularly we have a great many men who have never heard of a public library. In Camp Wheeler we have 3,000 men who cannot read or write. They were quite a problem but we tackled that in fine style: we taught them how to read and write and then we gave them the books after they learned how to use them.

Another thing that is important is the personal relationship between the librarians and the military officers and the other organizations working in the camp. I think that the camp librarian should neglect almost any other duty he has to establish good relationships, become acquainted, to have people know him, know that he is in the camp, know that he represents the splendid organizations he does represent and make people realize that the library is taking a most important part in molding the opinion of the soldier. We all know when our young men went to these camps they did not have any idea why they were fighting; they are just be-

ginning to find out now why we are fighting, and the library has had a large part in telling them that; making them realize why it has been necessary to turn this great peaceful country into an armed camp. That is a most important work the library is doing in the camps, to place these ideas before all the men.

The camps, of course, differ in their physical aspect and their makeup. It is hard to tell us you should do a certain thing and should not do a certain other thing. One very interesting thing we had at Camp Wheeler when we received notice that the men in camp were to be changed. We were to have men from a new section of the country entirely. I thought it would be interesting to try to get those fellows before they came to the camp, so I tried in several ways, through the newspapers of the towns from which they were coming and through the chambers of commerce in the towns from which they were coming, to let them know that the American Library Association had a camp librarian with a splendid, active camp library back of him waiting for them, and when they did come to camp I noticed a difference right away. They felt that that camp library was something they would have to look up; it was a point of interest to them and something they went to in the first place. As soon as they came to the camp a great many mothers sent letters to me for their boys; they did not know to whom to send them and the